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Milk Production January 18, 2006

NEWS RELEASE

North Dakota October-December Milk Production

North Dakota

Milk production for the October-December 2005 quarter is estimated at 132 million pounds, up 4 percent from the same period a year earlier, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. Average milk cows during the quarter, at 33,000 head, were equal to the same period last year but up from 32,000 head for the July-September 2005 quarter. Milk produced per cow during the October-December quarter was 4,000 pounds, up from 3,860 pounds a year earlier, but down from 4,110 pounds during the July-September 2005 quarter.

United States

Milk production in the U.S. during the October-December quarter totaled 43.6 billion pounds, up 3.9 percent from the October-December quarter a year earlier. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.05 million head, 31,000 head more than the same period last year. Production per cow during the quarter averaged 4,818 pounds, up from 4,655 pounds during the same period last year.

Milk Cows and Production: Selected States and United States October - December, 2004-2005

State	Oct-Dec Milk Cows 1/		Oct-Dec Milk Production 2/		
	2004	2005	2004	2005	Change From 2004
	1,000 Head	1,000 Head	Million Pounds	Million Pounds	Percent
North Dakota	33	33	127	132	3.9
California	1,741	1,770	9,130	9,381	2.7
Minnesota	460	448	1,974	2,006	1.6
New York	651	649	2,843	2,973	4.6
Wisconsin	1,237	1,238	5,418	5,664	4.5
United States	9,019	9,050	41,983	43,605	3.9

1/ Includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. 2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.